



Contact

Magazine for the Alumni, Parents & Friends of Saint Joseph's College



SPRING 2008

WWW.SAINTJOE.EDU



Contact

Winter 2008, Volume 66, Number 3
Published Quarterly for Alumni, Parents,
and Friends of Saint Joseph's College

Please send changes of address
and other correspondence to:

Saint Joseph's College
P.O. Box 870
Rensselaer, Indiana 47978
Phone: 219-866-6250
Toll Free: 800-227-1898
Fax: 219-866-6354
E-mail: alumni@saintjoe.edu

See *Contact* on the Web at
www.contact.saintjoe.edu

Saint Joseph's College is...

"...a primarily undergraduate Catholic college, founded and sponsored by the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, [which] pledges itself to a tradition of excellence and to a liberal education that is a united endeavor of intelligence and faith."

— *excerpted from the College mission statement*

contents

SOME OF WHAT'S INSIDE **SPRING 2008**



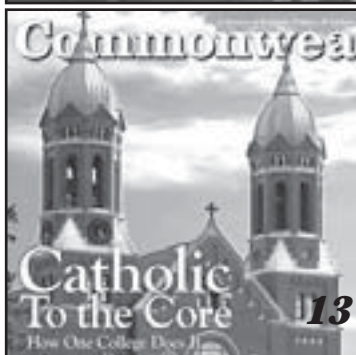
4 PUMA PHONATHON 2008

The numbers are in from the 2008 Puma Phonathon, and it's packed with success. Over 9,000 SJC alumni, parents, and friends were called during this year's event. Turn to page 4 to see just how we did.



7 THE PRIEST AND THE BLACKSMITH

Freelance writer Linda Kush takes readers on a tour of the history of the College through the eyes of one of Saint Joseph's first alumni – **Joseph Abel**, Class of **1896**.



13 SJC FEATURED BY *COMMONWEAL* MAGAZINE

The nationally-renowned Core Curriculum at Saint Joseph's College was recently honored as the cover article of the esteemed lay-Catholic independent journal *Commonweal*. With permission, we've reprinted the article in its entirety for your enjoyment, beginning on page 15.



18 ROBINSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY RENOVATIONS

The Saint Joseph's College Keith and Kate Robinson Memorial Library has recently undergone a dramatic transformation from a dark, crowded, and oftentimes stifling environment to a comfortable, airy, and engaging space that invites Pumas into the welcoming academic atmosphere.



27 PUMAS DRESS TO IMPRESS AT CAREERFEST

SJC held its 12th annual CareerFest in February, representing over thirty local, state, and national companies.

Saint Joseph's Future is in Their Hands

From the
Alumni Board President

I recently had the opportunity to sit in on a meeting of President Mills and a number of the faculty. The occasion was an invitation from Dr. Mills to all faculty members to offer their comments regarding the selection of a new Vice President of Academic Affairs.

In January, Dr. David Chattin announced that he intended to resign as the College's VPAA and return to his first-love of classroom instruction.

Since I was already scheduled to be on the campus for an Alumni Board meeting, I asked if I could attend Dr. Mills' meeting to hear what the faculty had to offer concerning the qualities they hoped for in the individual to whom they would be accountable.

I was already familiar with some of the faculty who attended from my visits to various College events. Others I knew of only by their names or photos in College publications.

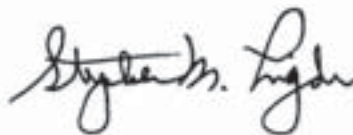
To say that I was impressed would not do justice to what I observed as I sat and listened.

I met men and women who, similar to Dr. Chattin, have a first-love of teaching - who have the students' successes foremost in their minds and have an abiding love of Saint Joseph's and her Catholic, liberal arts mission.

I didn't hear one word that "sugar-coated" the difficulties that our alma mater faces in the competitive world of small, liberal arts institutions. Each of them acknowledged that they weren't armed with a cadre of graduate assistants who would teach, grade, and tutor students. They spoke of limited resources, knowing full well that if they were going to "make-do," they were going to have to do it themselves.

To a person, each of them wanted to be held accountable for their efforts and accomplishments. Not a one wanted classroom requirements or standards to be loosened or relaxed. It was very apparent that they know the College - and the students she graduates - are quickly immersed in a competitive world that allows little margin for failure. They know that today's high school graduate has many options for college and that Saint Joseph's has to continually attract young men and women who will succeed in her classrooms, laboratories, and campus activities.

I urge you, whenever you have the occasion to meet or make contact with a Saint Joseph's faculty member, thank them for their unwavering standards and their untiring efforts. I know that I will!



Stephen M. Ligda '62

Alumni Association Board President



Alumni Association Board of Directors

Officers

Steve Ligda '62
President

Louis B. Offer '69
VP of Alumni Relations

Michael Bauman '79
VP Administration

Kris Costa Sakelaris '82
*VP of Academics, Recruitment,
and Placement*

Terra (Schafer) Maienbrook '97
VP of Campus Relations

Kendra Illingworth '93
Executive Director

Directors

Mary Louise Ames '72

Ed Balas '96

Derek Dabrowiak '01

James Deegan '59

Ed Feicht '71

Ed Habrowski '71

Blaire Henley '02

Joseph Janusonis '95

Beth Jerzyk '02

George Liggett '80

Kelli (Costa) Lucito '90

Bree (Ma'Ayteh) Dunscombe '02

Georgia McKim '89

Kara (Costa) Meyer '93

Donna (Zimmerman) Moran '73

Brian Studebaker '92

Julie Suhr '89

Jackie (Leonard) Tackett '95

Michael Vallone '60

Student Director

Joe Stewart '10

Director Emeritus

Philip J. Wilhelm '63



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL ALUMNAE GAME

Third Annual Alumni Day Rocks the Fieldhouse

Pictured from left to right are: (back row) **Lauralee Mullikin '01**, **Jessika (Henry) Zimmer '98**, **Lisa (Baciu) Sheridan '93**, **Jennifer Radosevic '91**, **Tia (Glass) Ghattas '93**, **Lori (Hissong) Knoblauch '95**, **Kelly (Fink) Lafoon '99**, (front row) **Mindy (Laffoon) Beier '96**, **Patty Offer '93**, **Beth Dean '85**, and **Paula (Kline) Weill '92**. Supporting from the stands were Head Women's Golf Coach **Marian Pack '94**, **Diane (Poulson) Miller '95**, and **Carmen (Skoog) Knowles '95**.

The Office of Alumni and Parent Relations sponsored the third annual Alumni Day on January 26 in the Richard F. Scharf Alumni Fieldhouse. Alumni, students, parents, friends, and community members gathered to join in the fun at the Fieldhouse and showed their Puma pride.

The men's basketball team treated the crowd to a dominant performance, defeating Rockhurst University 83-59 for its fourth consecutive victory and moving up to third place in the GLVC East Division standings with the win. The women's basketball team gave Rockhurst's Lady Hawks all they could muster but were defeated 73-34. This year's event also featured a women's basketball alumnae game preceding the Pumas on the court.

The Alumni Association presented their annual Scholar Athlete Awards during halftime of the women's game, honoring thirty senior varsity-letter winners who have compiled a 3.5 GPA or higher during their four years at SJC. During halftime of the men's game, the Alumni Association inducted the 1952-53 men's varsity basketball team to the Wall of Honor, the newly-established award to recognize the accomplishments of athletic teams. The team set both season and career scoring records, as well as brought home the Indiana Collegiate Conference co-championship – the first basketball title in Saint Joseph's College history.

WALL OF HONOR INDUCTEES

Pictured from left to right are: Jen O'Rourke, accepting on behalf of her father **Ed O'Rourke '56**; **Jack Dwyer '52**; **Marvin Hackman '56**; **William Elbert '53**; **Rev. Bernard Boff '54**; and **Stephen Scharf '69** and Maureen (Scharf) Jungblut, accepting on behalf of their late father **Richard F. Scharf '38**, the coach of the esteemed team. Not pictured are **William Gehring '53**, **Tim O'Brien '56**, **Chester Pilat '56**, and **Willard Kellogg '55**. Deceased team members are **Don Merki '55** and **Boyd Reutebuch '53**.



2008 PUMA PHONATHON Packed With Success

Did you answer the call? Over 9,000 SJC alumni, parents, and friends were called during this year's annual Puma Phonathon. Great faculty and staff volunteers,

enthusiastic student callers, and a Board Challenge of \$20,300+ were instrumental to surpassing our 2008 Phonathon goal of \$110,000. Currently, the Puma Phonathon has raised, \$144,000+ in gifts and pledges -- exceeding this year's goal by over \$34,000+.

There were **300** student and employee volunteers and **11** different teams and clubs that participated. Employees who volunteered or prepared food this year include: David Bokhart; **Maureen Egan '90**; Michele Gunkelman; Sheila Hanewich; Maureen Healey; **Br. Tim Hemm, C.P.P.S. '70**; Marge McIlwain; Sheryl Miller; Cathy Salyers; Todd Samra; Jill Schopieray; and Karen Venditti. The teams and clubs represented included: Baseball, Football, Softball, Volleyball, Men's and Women's Soccer, Women's Tennis, Habitat for Humanity, Measure, Science Club, and Alpha Lambda Delta.

This year, any new and increased gifts to the Phonathon in support of the College Fund will be used to help SJC meet the \$750,000 Kresge Challenge if paid by June 30, 2008. To date, the Phonathon raised \$53,437+ from new and increased gifts and pledges. **Thank you for your support of Saint Joseph's College.** If we missed you this year and you would like to make a gift to the College Fund, you can call (800) 227-1898, visit our Web site at www.saintjoe.edu, or send a gift to the address below. For more information, please contact **Jake Chapman '96** at CollegeFund@saintjoe.edu.

Puma Football Alumni Reunion Scheduled for July

This summer, SJC is celebrating the history of Puma football and the recent renovations to Alumni Stadium. Slated for Saturday, July 26, all members of the Puma squad are invited back to campus for a family-friendly day of fun in the sun. Beginning at 10:30 a.m. CDT, alumni can enjoy a day of golf at the newly-renovated Sandy Pines Golf Club in DeMotte, Indiana, complete with complimentary Puma Bus transportation from SJC to the venue. Registration is required, and the cost is \$50 per person. Those not interested in golfing can spend the afternoon at Lake Banet, where a shelter has been reserved, grills are available, and coolers are welcome. A cookout at the Lake is scheduled for 6 p.m. at which former coaches, players, and staff are invited to partake in Chef Eric Braun's delectable menu of grilled steak and chicken. The cost per person for this family-friendly gathering is \$37, and an open bar is provided.



Bill Jennings (left), retired SJC head football coach, and **Fred Mariani '74 (right)** smile for the camera at the Football Reunion of Champions in July 2006. Join Jennings and Mariani for this summer's Puma Football Alumni Reunion.

For more information regarding the Puma Football Alumni Reunion, contact Director of Alumni and Parent Relations Kendra Illingworth at (800) 227-1898. To register for this or any other SJC alumni event, log on to the alumni Web site *Connections* at <http://alumni.saintjoe.edu>.

Join the Alumni On-Line Community



We're rounding up alumni, parents, and friends for a (mid)western themed Homecoming Celebration, September 5-7, 2008. Log on to *Connections* to get event details and other updates.

Find friends ♦ Share news ♦ Register for events ♦ Permanent e-mail forwarding

<http://alumni.saintjoe.edu>

The Priest and the Blacksmith

BY LINDA KUSH

Rev. Dominic Gerlach, C.P.P.S. '42, then archivist at Saint Joseph's, opened my letter and immediately recognized the name of the former student I was researching, my great-great uncle **Joseph Abel**. He was in the school's first graduating class in **1896** and delivered the German address at Commencement. Pouring through records, Gerlach discovered that Abel, a classics student, made the honor roll every semester for four years.

Abel was 31 when he enrolled at Saint Joseph's, making him twice the age of his classmates and older than most of his teachers. Today, people of all ages attend college, but in the 1890s, an adult student was unheard of, especially at Saint Joseph's, which then resembled a combination prep school and junior college. Most students entered after eighth grade and took a six-year course to prepare for seminary. Why Abel was admitted at his age remains a mystery, but at that time, the Catholic Church needed German-speaking priests in Indiana to serve an influx of immigrants. As a bilingual, native German with a fervent vocation for the priesthood, he was a strong candidate.

But he also harbored a dark secret. When he sailed to America from Dorsten, Germany, in 1883, he was running from the law. My grandmother portrayed young "Onkel Abel" as a hooligan who stole a horse and narrowly escaped arrest. As he fled the police, he promised God that he would de-

vote his life to the priesthood if he got away.

He arrived in Indiana penniless at 22, and in nine years made little headway toward making good on his vow, finding it impossible to scrape up the money for his education. But when Saint Joseph's opened, Abel saw his chance. The school's founders had German roots, and perhaps that connection opened the door for him.

Abel was finally ordained at age 40 in Fort Wayne, Indiana, in June of 1901, two months before his sister in Germany had her first child, Elisabeth, my grandmother. For the next 34 years, he fulfilled his old promise, serving as pastor in Walkerton, Indiana, and then chaplain at a Catholic nursing home in Avilla, Indiana.

In 1925, an aging Father Abel received a letter from home. He had never met the writer, Wilhelm Altenkamp, a blacksmith and husband of Abel's niece Elisabeth. Altenkamp, my grandfather, described a chaotic post-war Germany. Political violence erupted in the streets, the French army marched in and imposed martial law, and in the face of food shortages, the elderly were committing suicide to leave more for the young. Money lost its value so fast that Altenkamp's employer paid him twice a day in cash, which he pushed home in a wheelbarrow. Elisabeth waited for him in the street and dashed to the store with it, hoping she could still buy a loaf of bread before prices went up.

Altenkamp asked Abel to help him bring his family to America. He would come alone, find work, and live with a relative in Chicago until he could afford his own place and passage for his wife and two children. But he had no money for the fare, and no one in Germany had any to lend him.

The letter rekindled Abel's memories of his own desperate emigration. His sister, a little girl when he left home, was now a grandmother. At age 64, perhaps he longed for family. He replied to Altenkamp's letter with a short note and a steamship ticket to New York.

For Willi Altenkamp, the ticket was a miracle. Bursting with hope, he boarded the SS George Washington in Bremen, Germany, in late June. But when the ship arrived in New York, he heard explosions outside and feared that the turmoil in Germany had spread to America. He peered out and saw colored sparks raining on the harbor.

Fireworks! The Americans were welcoming the ship. Relieved and overjoyed, he cheered and threw his arms around the man beside him. The passengers leapt and



Joseph Abel in 1896, the year of his graduation from Saint Joseph's.



Left: Joseph Abel's sister Johanna with her children, Herman and Elisabeth, and husband Heinrich Westerkamp, in Osterfeld, Germany, 1925. Joseph Abel sponsored Elisabeth's husband to come to America.

hugged and headed eagerly to the exit to begin life in the greatest country on earth.

The date was July 3. Altenkamp learned soon enough about Independence Day celebrations. "I thought it was for me," he would laugh when describing the fireworks on his first night in America.

In Chicago, it took him less than a year to open his own blacksmith shop, set up housekeeping, and send for his family. Elisabeth, her brother Herman, son Henry, and daughter Johanna - my mother - arrived in 1926.

For the first time in 45 years, Joseph Abel could visit family. He spent summer vacations in Chicago with the Altenkamps, playing cards, taking walks, sipping beer, and telling old stories. My mother remembers tiptoeing around the house each morning while Onkel Abel said his devotionals.

Father Abel died in 1935 and left small legacies to Elisabeth and Herman. My grandparents used theirs for a down payment on their first home, and Herman bought an engagement ring for his girl.

The Altenkamps were forever grateful to Onkel Abel, and they followed his example, sponsoring friends and relatives to come to America. Today, more than 60 descendents of Elisabeth and Herman live across the country, owing their very existence to the priest who sent a steamship ticket to the blacksmith in 1925.

Linda Kush is a freelance writer and family history buff in Boston, Massachusetts.



Below: The Altenkamps, Christmas, 1931, Chicago. Wilhelm, smoking a pipe, came to America on a steamship ticket sent to him by Joseph Abel. Pictured left to right are: an unknown friend, Johanna Altenkamp, Wilhelm, Herman Westerkamp (Abel's nephew), Elisabeth Westerkamp Altenkamp (Abel's niece), Heinrich Altenkamp. The photo under the tree is of Abel's sister and her husband in Germany.



Wilhelm Altenkamp, Chicago, 1925. The back of the photo says, "Your Willi, in America." Joseph Abel paid his passage.

History of the College: Looking Back at SJC

115
YEARS AGO

The Administration Building, completed in 1893, was an impressive structure for those days, both in size and beauty. It correctly boasted of being the largest building in all of northwest Indiana, for the city of Gary did not yet exist. The enrollment had jumped from 54 in 1891 to 98 in 1893. The building cost a total of \$61,000 - \$38,000 for the original part and \$23,000 to complete it.

From 1893 to 1897, the Administration Building was the entire College. It housed a student body that soon reached 133 together with the necessary facilities such as dining rooms, dormitories, chapel, and auditorium. In addition, it housed over a half dozen priest-professors and at least

twice that many Precious Blood sisters, who operated the kitchen and laundry.

The building was at first simply called "the College." When other buildings were added after 1897, it was called "the Main Building." Only in later years, perhaps as early as the 1940s, has it been referred to as "the Ad [Administration] Building."



35
YEARS AGO

Early in the morning of February 4, 1973, a fire broke out at the south end of the Ad Building on one of the upper floors, a fire that could not be stopped. Several fire departments came out to try to control the blaze, but it was a sufficient challenge for them just to protect the Chapel. Luckily, no one was living in the building at the time.

However, it was still being used during the day, for it housed nearly all of the College's administrative offices, faculty offices, and several classrooms. Perhaps if the building had been inhabited, the fire might have been detected earlier and extinguished promptly, as occurred on at least two previous occasions.

The Ad Building fire came as a great shock for everyone. It was still the nerve center of the College. Many pitched in where possible to help remove contents of the burning building. Here, students are seen removing record files. Lucky, few records were lost. The professors who had their offices in the Ad Building, and that included most of them, were less fortunate. Entire libraries, notes, typewriters, et cetera, were lost.



The two towers were the sturdiest parts of the building. All the inside, except for a walk-in safe at the north end, was completely consumed. It was hoped that the St. Joseph statue might be removed [from its home in the niche of one tower], but it crumbled when the workmen tried to lift it off its pedestal with a crane. The Virgin Mary statue, which occupied the niche in the north tower, was saved, and now stands on the lawn east of McHale-Xavier Hall as a reminder of the former Ad Building.

All text originally appeared in *Saint Joseph's College: A Centennial Pictorial History* by Rev. Dominic B. Gerlach, C.P.P.S. '46.



NOW and THEN

AT SAINT JOSEPH'S COLLEGE

Study Time

The Study Hall on the first floor of the Administration Building.



This photograph shows the Study Hall as it was in 1943 when it was still used by the high school [academy] students. It had changed very little since the beginning, except for the addition of electric lights. A brother was still assigned to oversee the Study Hall from an elevated desk in the back of the room in order to ensure total silence, a condition considered necessary for study in those days.

The Robinson Memorial Library on the first floor and lower level of the Arts and Science Building.



Today, students do the majority of their studying in the newly-renovated Robinson Memorial Library. Quiet, collaborative study spaces now prevail in this peaceful setting, complete with comfortable chairs and sturdy tables. For more information about the Robinson Memorial Library, turn to page 12.

Meal Time

The Student Dining Room in the basement of the Ad Building.



This Dining Room seems to have been lit by only one kerosene lamp, which may have been a blessing at times. The Study Hall was illuminated more brightly with acetylene lamps.

The Dining Hall on the lower lever of the Halleck Student Center.



Today, more than simply a place to have a meal, the Dining Hall is regarded as a place to meet and socialize. Student clubs and organizations routinely hold meetings at "the Caf" during the lunch and dinner hours, and students and professors alike enjoy the time to sit back and get to know each other in a friendly and sociable environment.

Performance Time

The stage on the third floor of the Ad Building.



The area above the chapel [on the second floor] constituted the auditorium or assembly hall. Here, concerts [band and orchestra] were held, and, above all, plays. Each photograph of the stage seems to have had a different painted backdrop according to the need of the play to be produced.

The cast of *Tartuffe*, presented by the Columbian Players earlier this year, accept their applause and take a curtain call.



Today, the Theatre is located on the second floor of the Arts and Science Building and is home to many of SJC's performing arts groups. The Concert Choir and Chamber Singers share the newly-renovated space with the Columbian Players, who present three shows annually, including a musical in the spring.

Business Administration Department at SJC Receives Specialized Accreditation from IACBE

Students studying Accounting and Business Administration at Saint Joseph's College have long valued the preparation they receive for their careers. They now have one more feather for their graduation mortarboards: they will receive their degrees from a nationally-accredited program.

10 The Board of Commissioners of the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education (IACBE) formally granted specialized accreditation to SJC this winter, capping a five-year process for one of the largest academic divisions at the College.

"The nature of long-term goals is that it is sometimes hard to see exactly how things will play out," said Linda McFarland, Associate Professor of Management and Marketing. "But if the goal is right, you push on, accomplish tasks, and make changes. That's how organizations today progress and survive."



Students and alumni chat with **Art West '62**, General Manager of the Chicago Board of Trade, on January 23 at the annual Chicago Business Network event, hosted by SJC's Business Administration Department. Pictured from left to right are: senior Accounting major Danielle Stockmaster, senior Business Administration major Jenna Helton, **Scott Smolek '05**, **Brandon Deardorff '05**, and West.

Only just over one-fourth of the undergraduate business programs in the United States have received specialized accreditation. Many of those consist of the larger research universities with nationally-known business schools.

Such accreditation commonly involves an extended self-study of program strengths and weaknesses, assessment of student learning, and measurement of program benchmarks against other institutions. SJC's business programs were formally commended for "integration of outcomes assessment and strategic planning," two processes that are naturally interconnected but, until now, were treated as separate tasks by most self-studies.

Michael Oakes, Associate Professor of Economics and Finance, pointed out that the road to accreditation brought important changes to the curriculum. "The process forced us to look outside ourselves much more than had been done in previous years."

"We discovered, for example, that we needed more coverage in business law, quantitative skills, and information systems," he continued. "We also evaluated faculty strengths, student profiles, and employer interests and refocused on providing students with a valuable set of cross-functional business skills."

Accreditation also locks in a continuous quality improvement process. "We have an excellent faculty and curriculum. But we didn't conclude we were perfect," Oakes said. "It would be hard not to be suspicious of any assessment that concluded that nothing needed improvement."

Oakes continued, "Accreditation means we are now formally accountable to addressing weaknesses and making real changes to constantly enhance student learning."

Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels

Speaks at Saint Joseph's College

Saint Joseph's College was host to Mitch Daniels, 49th Governor of Indiana, on the afternoon of January 31. Daniels included SJC in his tour of colleges and universities, presenting forums and open question-and-answer sessions with the intent of making a difference in how young people in Indiana recognize the state as a place of opportunity.

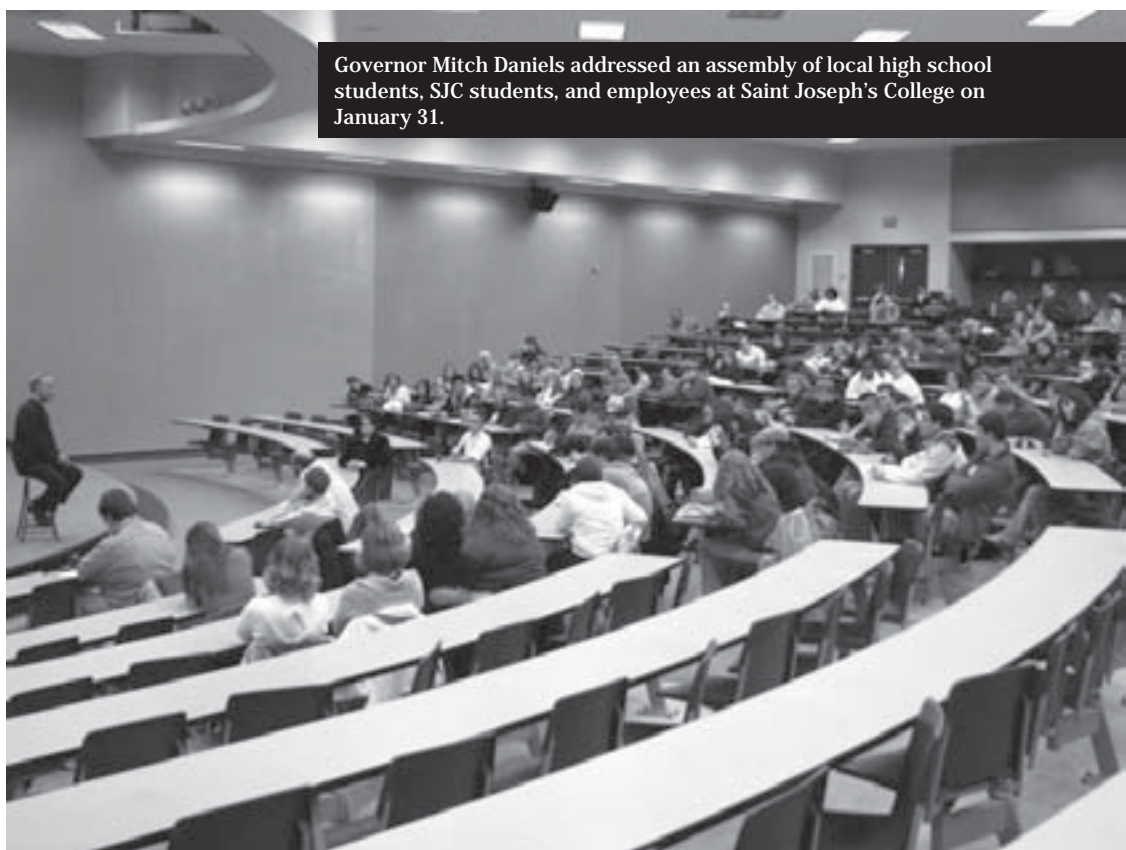
Following a brief speech to the crowd of SJC students, employees, and local high school students, Daniels opened the floor to questions, which ranged from Daniels' opinion of the need to improve the status of Hoosier farms, low-income health insurance options, nonviolent criminals, victimless crimes, and immigration restrictions and related penalty laws, but the conversation repeatedly returned to issues within Indiana school systems.

"There are not many things more important than our future, and our future lies in the education of our youth," Daniels said. "We need to improve our schools, and - to do that - we need to invest in our children and future."

Sophomore English major and Student Association president Joe Stewart of LaPorte, Indiana, enjoyed Daniels' visit and is grateful for the time he spent with the students of Saint Joseph's. "I thought it was very gracious of Governor Daniels to take the time to see what the youth of America thinks about the major political issues of the day," Stewart said. "The fact that he included a small, private school like SJC in his tour shows us that we matter a great deal to the state of Indiana and the country at large."

Prior to his run for office, Daniels spent many of his formative years in the employment of Indianapolis Mayor Richard Lugar, serving as his Principal Assistant, Administrative Assistant, and Campaign Manager after following Lugar to Washington, D.C. upon his election to the US Senate. Daniels also served as Lugar's Chief of Staff and was appointed the Executive Director of the National Republican Senatorial Committee upon Lugar's election as Chairman of the same organization.

Daniels joined the Reagan Administration as Deputy Assistant for Intergovernmental Affairs before being named President Reagan's Chief Political Adviser and Liaison to State and Local Officials. Following, he served as the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Indianapolis' Hudson Institute and Vice President of Corporate Affairs for Eli Lilly & Co. He ultimately rose to the rank of President for Lilly's North American pharmaceutical operations and Senior Vice President of corporate strategy and policy. Additionally, Daniels returned to Washington to serve as Director of the Office of Management and Budget under the George W. Bush Administration.



Governor Mitch Daniels addressed an assembly of local high school students, SJC students, and employees at Saint Joseph's College on January 31.

Saint Joseph's College

Featured in **National Commonweal Magazine**

The nationally-renowned Core Curriculum at Saint Joseph's College was recently honored as the cover article of the esteemed lay-Catholic independent journal *Commonweal*. The March 14, 2008, issue of the nationally-distributed magazine featured an article on the Curriculum written by Dennis O'Brien, President Emeritus of the University of Rochester, who spoke on the College's campus in January 2007 on the relation of Catholicism to higher education, sponsored by the Commonweal Speakers Program.

Professor Emeritus of English John Groppe believes that the *Commonweal* article "may be the most important article on the Core Program in a non-academic periodical." He continued, "Dennis O'Brien has given considerable thought to Catholic higher education reflected in such works as his *The Idea of a Catholic University* and has extensive experience in American higher education."

12

Please read ahead to find Dennis O'Brien's Commonweal article reprinted in its entirety.

HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE.

Give *Commonweal* to a college student.

Commonweal has long been an essential element of the education of Catholic college students, and since 2000 our College Subscription Program has been an important success story.

There is nothing more important to *Commonweal's* future than getting subscriptions into the hands of the nation's brightest Catholic college students. Their letters of thanks and encouragement tell us that *Commonweal* can resonate with a new generation of readers, if only they have a chance to get to know us. And each year the deans, professors, and campus ministers who help us identify these students tell us that the demand is there to grow student readership further still.

Would you consider funding subscriptions to *Commonweal* for Catholic college students at both religious and secular universities? Instead of our regular price of \$49, student gift subscriptions are available at the special (and tax-deductible) rate of \$20 each. Your generous funding of five or more subscriptions will help build a strong corps of future *Commonweal* readers and writers.

Will you help? If so, please visit our secure Web site at www.commonwealmagazine.org/college or return the form at right.

Commonweal

I agree that Catholic college students need *Commonweal* to help them understand the issues facing contemporary society.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

Number of subscriptions I will sponsor at \$20 each (minimum of 5, please):

☐ 5 ☐ 10 ☐ 15 ☐ other _____

May we identify you as the donor? ☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ Check enclosed. ☐ Please bill my credit card:
(Amex, Mastercard, Visa)

CARD NUMBER

EXP. DATE

We thank you for your tax-deductible donation.

Commonweal
475 Riverside Drive, Room 405
New York, NY 10115
phone: 212-662-4200 | fax: 212-662-4183
e-mail: college@commonwealmagazine.org



A Review of Religion, Politics & Culture

Commonweal

Catholic To the Core

How One College Does It
Dennis O'Brien

\$3.00 US
(\$4.00 CAN)

**Robert Bellah &
Don Wycliff on
Barack Obama**

**Daniel Finn &
Charles Morris on
the Economy**

www.commonwealmagazine.org

The Saga of St. Joseph's

A Core Curriculum that Works

Dennis O'Brien

The last day of January, three hours out of Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, and I am driving across a snowy Indiana landscape under a darkening sky to fulfill a speaking assignment. Having written a book titled *The Idea of a Catholic University*, I have given several talks sponsored by the Commonweal Speakers Program at Catholic colleges and universities. Tonight's talk, on the relation of Catholicism to higher education, is at St. Joseph's College in Rensselaer, Indiana.

Driving instructions: "Off Interstate 65 onto Indiana 114; turn on Main St.; the college gate is just opposite the Wal-Mart." It is 5 p.m. I pass a line of barren trees and spot the looming towers of a large church to the left and a scattering of academic buildings to the right. This is St. Joseph's, founded in 1889 by the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. Today the college has a thousand students and a student-faculty ratio of fifteen to one. Sixty-eight percent of students live on its 180-acre campus; 47 percent are Catholics.

Whether or not anyone learned anything from my talk that evening, I learned a great deal at St. Joseph's about actually *doing* Catholic higher education. It is all well and good to write a book about the *idea* of Catholic higher education; it is quite a different thing to see it accomplished on the ground. It turns out that St. Joseph's is not only opposite the Wal-Mart geographically, it is opposite the regnant Wal-Mart philosophy of higher education: college as a supermarket of courses for consumers. St. Joseph's actually has a coherent, comprehensive idea about what constitutes higher education, and it has made it real in an effective—and Catholic—core curriculum.

Consumerism says, "If you want to study x, we're selling it!" A core curriculum says, "This is what you need to study to be truly educated." A core presumably identifies what is "higher"

in higher education. Traditionally, educators assumed there was a hierarchy of studies: some courses were either intellectually or morally more important—or both. The traditional Jesuit theory of higher education, the *ratio studiorum*, offered a progression of courses that led eventually to the overarching disciplines of philosophy and theology. Nineteenth-century Protestant colleges dedicated to classical Greek and Latin culminated in a course on ethics taught by the college president. Both the *ratio studiorum* and the study of ancient texts as a door to ethical instruction withered during the latter half of the nineteenth century as a result of the introduction of multiple electives into the fixed classical curriculum. Much good has been accomplished by expanding the restrictive curricula of the past, but it is no surprise that with so many equivalently valued disciplines now on the field, arriving at a core for the curriculum has seemed nearly impossible.



From Alpha to Omega

ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE

Dennis O'Brien is president emeritus of the University of Rochester. His most recent book is *Finding the Voice of the Church* (University of Notre Dame Press).

Saliva

Even the birds have tongues.
I've seen hummingbirds', fine as a hair,
slip out to catch the nectar from the fuschia,
have seen fledgling woodpeckers' tentatively taste
sweetness
from the birdbell at my window.
Tongues sliding on saliva.

Healing water from our mouths,
healing water all were born with
Salvia salvation living water
humble, intimate, vibrant, vital.

Tomcat licking his wounds after a fight,
My mother licking her finger, rubbing the dirt off my nose...
Saliva, shining my lips and teeth,
cleaning my glasses, sucking my cut finger,
Christ's saliva on the blind man's eyes.

More humble than tears,
how did you come to be flung out
of the mouth of scorn?

—Anne Higgins

Battles over the core have become commonplace, with the usual solution being to set up “distribution requirements.” Each of the major disciplinary contenders is given a piece of the action. A common model requires that students take two courses in each of three divisions—the humanities, the social sciences, and the natural sciences. These distribution requirements create the illusion of a core, but the modes and methods of study under such broad categories are so disparate that one wonders if anything fundamental has been achieved. Am I doing *the humanities* whether I analyze Aristotle's *Metaphysics* or Milton's prosody? And the sciences are no better. Astronomy is highly theoretical, biology highly observational. The social sciences in turn seem consumed with quarrels about proper methodology: Which science should be required? Does history belong in social science or the humanities?

The old *ratio studiorum* not only ranged through various disciplines; it also sought to locate the disciplines in an architectionic structure. Multiple electives and vague distribution requirements may maximize choice for the student-consumer, but the real question for education is whether the role of choice itself needs to be examined. For what constitutes a *meaningful* choice? The value we place on choice presumes a hierarchy of values, values that are intellectually foundational or morally

superior. A true core assumes that the student-consumer needs to develop the ability to make meaningful choices; this ability is the goal of education, not its starting point.

St. Joseph's has a rigorous, mandatory core of common courses for all undergraduates. So dedicated is the institution to this idea that it has a lovely new facility, the Core Building, the central atrium of which is graced with a sculptural wall—paid for by the faculty—depicting symbols from art, science, literature, and law. The choice of a brick, bas-relief Sumerian wall sculpture for this modern building anchors the core curriculum to the dawn of civilization. The assemblage of symbols is transversed by a cross and enclosed in the biblical Alpha and Omega.

There are cores and there are cores. Students at a rigorous scientific or technical institution like Cal Tech pursue a highly structured curriculum. In such a program there are very few electives and sidebars as the student zooms up from calculus to advanced laser research. Accreditation standards in some technical fields may allow for just one elective in four years. Clearly, rocket science demands a rocket-science curriculum. But there are also examples of completely structured *humanistic* cores: the Great Books program at St. John's in Annapolis is one example. It offers a four-year common reading program from the ancient Greeks to the present.

The St. Joseph's curriculum is different, but it is clearly humanistic. As the college catalogue for 2006 described it, “All through the eight semesters of the Core Curriculum, there is witness to the specific values of our Judeo-Christian and humanist traditions, in keeping with the college motto: *Religio, Moralitas, Scientia*.” At the same time, St. Joseph's offers a generous range of the traditional undergraduate majors from art to business administration. The major is pursued in *conjunction with* the core. Some colleges have serious core requirements that take up nearly all of the first two years of study. The Search Program at Rhodes College in Memphis, for example, requires a freshman-sophomore great-books program before a student selects a major. But since the core at St. Joseph's is structured as a succession of courses over four years, a student can begin majoring as a freshman. Creative synergy between core and major is thereby enhanced.

What most impressed me was the careful progression of the ten core courses. If one assumes that the goal is to assist the student in discovering who he or she is in the grand scheme of things—the meaning of life, as the old phrase goes—where do you start on such an exploration? I give the St. Joseph planners an A+. “Core One: The Contemporary Situation” addresses the question, Who am I? in light of contemporary history. How has a student's self been shaped by parents, grandparents, and the history through which his elders lived? An attendee at a Taizé retreat once remarked about its appeal to young people: They don't give you the answers before you ask the questions. One could say the same thing about the St. Joseph curriculum.

A more common pattern for introducing students to high

culture and Christian humanism is to hit them in freshman year with something like the history of philosophy from Plato to the present. (At the conservative Catholic Ave Maria College in Florida, introductory philosophy goes from Plato to Wojtyla.) Having taught such courses, I can't knock them, but it makes more sense to offer answers from high philosophy and theology only after students have worried through a host of questions for themselves. Following that strategy, the initial reading at St. Joseph's is Tobias Wolff's *This Boy's Life*, a memoir of growing up in a dysfunctional family in the 1960s. This might seem like an inauspicious way to lay the groundwork for the grand goal of Christian humanism. There is almost nothing about religion, not to mention Catholicism, in this tale of growing up in a situation where shrewd lying becomes a strategic life choice. Following this story of adolescence, students read books like Tim O'Brien's half-memoir, half-novel *The Things They Carried*, an account of how soldiers experienced duty in Vietnam. The civil-rights era is then covered, culminating in Martin Luther King's eloquent "Letter from Birmingham City Jail." A student then writes his or her own memoir, answering the question: "Who am I in a world of war, racism, ethnic conflict, and lies?"

Having started with the contemporary, the next three core courses move backward from the modern world to earlier Christian eras and to the classical roots of Western civilization. Investigation then turns to natural history, examining theories of evolution and cosmology. A particularly interesting choice is presenting intercultural and interreligious studies (concentrating on China from Confucius to Mao) alongside courses on cosmology. Understanding the place of the self in relation to the physical universe leads naturally to those ultimate questions on which world cultures and their religions have offered profound comment. In senior year, one of the core courses is titled "Toward a Christian Humanism." In case a quick tour of human history and the cosmos has caused the student to forget the conflict and crises explored in freshman year, the reading list for this course begins with Elie Wiesel's *Night*. The darkest questions are asked within the context of Christian humanism. The specifically Christian materials reflect sophisticated biblical studies and contemporary theological work. Finally, the student is required to make a personal statement on a significant moral or political issue using the "theories and foundations of the previous Cores." The senior memoir concludes with a manifesto on "person-oriented concerns, urgent contemporary issues, or a student's chosen career."

Does this emphasis on *Christian* humanism make agnostic, atheist, or non-Christian students uncomfortable? Evidently not. In interviews conducted by various means, no one complained about too much religion. Many said there wasn't enough. A fundamentalist decided life was more complex than he had thought; an atheist became an agnostic.

The usual scholarly complaint about a ten-course tour of art, science, philosophy, and theology is that it is superficial.

Superficiality is always a danger in a broad curriculum, but St. Joseph's special pedagogical structure helps students go beyond the superficial. Seventy-five percent of the faculty, from across the various departments, teach in the core curriculum as lecturers or discussion leaders. Not only are all students regarded as engaged in a common task, so are members of the faculty, who are required to attend all lectures delivered by their colleagues. As one assessment report noted, "faculty had to change their jargon to dialogue with one another." Teaching the core, faculty are by necessity *co-learners*, sophisticated learners but learners nevertheless. A faculty *learner* is not the be-all-end-all authority, and this creates a more open atmosphere for discussion. Further, participation of faculty from across the disciplines means that there is a two-way synergy between the core and the work that students pursue in their majors. Some 83 percent of the faculty who participate in the core report using core material in their individual disciplines. The program enriches and is enriched by a continuing relationship with specialized studies.

A final strength of the core is that it energizes the most underused "factor of production" in higher education: students. Because St. Joseph's is a small college, all the members of an entire class year can be assembled in one lecture hall. Everyone hears the same lecture on the subject at hand. When students are segregated across the myriad majors available on the contemporary campus, cross-student conversation is seriously reduced. The specialized lingo of individual disciplines can be as puzzling as a foreign language. At St. Joseph's a body of common discourse enriches student conversation, both in and out of class. Freshmen can find common conversation with juniors and seniors who are veterans of the same courses. The pedagogical impact of broad participation by faculty from various disciplines, the synergy among core and major courses, and the fact that students share a progressively structured curriculum reduce the risk of superficiality.

So much for intellectual and pedagogical structure. Does it actually work? St. Joseph's deserves enormous credit for undertaking a level of formal assessment that outstrips any I have seen in more than twenty accreditation visits to colleges and universities up and down the prestige ladder. From 1979 on, St. Joseph's has carefully examined and reexamined what happens to students. Value questionnaires have been used, and students have been interviewed repeatedly, sometimes by faculty, sometimes by senior students and outside observers. While there are the usual complaints about a boring lecturer or a dull reading assignment, and while not all standardized tests indicate success in a specific desired outcome, a large number of positive measures exist. In a comparison on standardized tests, the gains of St. Joseph's students in several intellectual skills exceed those at the more selective liberal-arts colleges. One particular measure not wholly irrelevant to education in Christian humanism is a national comparison on what is called a standard personality inventory. While the national trend on the altruism scale of

**After a visit to St. Joseph's,
the late Monika Hellwig,
then president of the
Association of Catholic
Colleges and Universities,
declared "this is what every
Catholic college should do."**

the inventory decreases from freshman year to graduation, at St. Joseph's it increases by 20 percent.

The effectiveness of St. Joseph's core may seem to rest on special facts like the size of the institution. But the real problem in adopting a curriculum like St. Joseph's is that its intellectual and pedagogical assumptions are countercultural in mainstream academia. The size problem could be remedied at larger institutions not by lecturing in the football stadium, but by creating multiple programs or "colleges" with specific content and the same careful attention to structural progress and student cohorting. The truly difficult issue is the role of the faculty. Mainstream academia rewards specialization, not general knowledge. I recall a conversation with the then-dean of Harvard College about how the excellent postwar general-education curriculum (as laid out in Harvard's Red Book) was being abandoned in favor of distribution requirements. The Red Book had been created by Harvard faculty in the context of the Second World War: if young men were to be sent to defend Western civilization, the faculty wanted them to know what civilization was and why it was valuable. As memory of the war receded and the authors of the Red Book retired, the dean confessed that you simply could not get younger faculty to teach "general education." You don't get tenure at Harvard—or most places—by wandering beyond your specialty.

If recruiting generalists at other colleges and universities seems difficult, it is a pressing concern at St. Joseph's. Some of the originators and enthusiasts for the core are approaching retirement and are deeply concerned about recruiting their successors. I hope they succeed. If they do, it will be by maintaining a strong, visible sense of commitment to the core.

Educational researcher Burton Clark distinguishes between colleges with a saga and colleges that are essentially marketplaces. Colleges with a saga, for instance women's colleges and black colleges, incorporate faculty and students into the institution's deep story in ways that make commitment to the college vitally important. In contrast, marketplace colleges have no particular story to tell; they are only about imparting useful

skills. Research indicates that colleges with a saga have a powerful educational effect on students. St. Joseph's has a saga. It expresses a level of serious intellectual purpose that not only energizes students but can also assist faculty development. Members of St. Joseph's faculty retain disciplinary standing in their major fields, and to that extent they share in the specialization culture of contemporary academia. If in their special disciplines, however, they incorporate not only the content of the core but the *spirit* of the core, education in their special fields will be enhanced. Research on faculty development at St. Joseph's clearly indicates that participation in the core improves faculty members' effectiveness in their own disciplines.

The unique character of St. Joseph's has been widely recognized. The late educator Ernest Boyer included the college in a list of the five institutions most frequently cited as having successful programs in "general education," along with such worthies as Harvard and the University of Chicago. And *Liberating Education* (Jossey-Bass, 1984) observed that "the only [liberating education] that embraces the whole undergraduate curriculum is the core at St. Joseph's College." After a visit to St. Joseph's, the late Monika Hellwig, then president of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, declared "this is what every Catholic college should do."

What about that last encomium? Can one measure the adequacy of the core against, say, the goals of *Ex corde ecclesiae*, John Paul II's 1990 exhortation to Catholic colleges to be genuinely and notably Catholic? Philosopher John Nichols, coordinator of the core from 1974 to 1996, wrote in 2005 that "the faculty of St. Joseph's College anticipated what the pope wrote in *Ex corde*.... We do in our academic programming exactly what is called for in the papal letters." At the heart of the pope's message, Nichols argued, is integration through a dialogue between Catholicism and the varieties of human culture. But does this produce genuine Catholics? "You might as well ask whether the Sunday sermon produces ardent believers," Nichols responded. Obviously, no curriculum or flourish from the pulpit can deliver grace into the soul, nor is higher education a form of advanced catechism. Education's task is to *understand* the faith, and that task is ongoing. In his magisterial work, *A Secular Age*, Catholic philosopher Charles Taylor states a principle that could describe the St. Joseph's core: "Our [present day] faith is not the acme of Christianity nor is it a degenerate version; it should be open to a conversation that ranges over the last twenty centuries (and in some ways before)."

Catholicism is engaged in a long, historical conversation, and St. Joseph's offers an invitation to join that conversation. Will its graduates carry the conversation beyond the classroom? To really grasp the spirit of the college and the task of Catholic faith, Nichols says, students must understand the need for "new knowledge, new insights, and new connections." So the final message Nichols has for St. Joseph's graduates about their Catholic faith is expressed in words he borrows from a bishop at Vatican II: *Non basta conservare*: it isn't enough to conserve. ■

Library Renovation: Revitalized Learning Space

Libraries serve as the academic foundation of college life. The Saint Joseph's College Keith and Kate Robinson Memorial Library has recently undergone a dramatic transformation from a dark, crowded, and oftentimes stifling environment to a comfortable, airy, and engaging space that invites Pumas into the welcoming academic atmosphere.

The Arts and Science Building, home to the Library, was erected immediately after the "Old Gym" burned down in 1914. The current Library's lower level was formerly a gymnasium; what is now the first floor existed only as a mezzanine walkway which looked down upon the athletes on the court.

18 The area was converted to an academic space in 1946, and the subsequent growth of the collection and student body demand upon the facility stretched the learning center to its limits.

The renovation of the Library facility has been a long time coming. Initially in 2001, a new building was proposed; however, after surveying the College's finances, newly-appointed President Ernest R. Mills III deemed renovating the existing structure a more fiscally feasible solution.

"I turned my ideas from a new building to renovating the space that was here," said Library Director and Assistant Professor Cathy Salyers. "In a survey of students in 2005, students made it clear that they needed more quiet and collaborative study spaces. We took those ideas and incorporated them into ideas we already had and came up with the plan of renovation for the Library."


The reference room was updated in the early 1990s with the addition of new windows and a new entrance point. More extensive renovations took place in 2004, when the area was refurbished thanks to the generosity of the Classes of 1963 and 1964. The room was completely gutted and all new furniture was installed.

The more extensive renovations began in May 2007, made possible through SJC's **21st Century Campaign: Preserving Tradition...Securing Our Future**. The Library constitutes \$1.6 million of the \$12.5 million campaign. Upon attaining this goal through written pledges by June 30, 2008, SJC will receive a \$750,000 challenge grant from the Kresge Foundation.

One of the most important projects in the Library was the renovation of the stairwell and addition of handicap accessibility to the lower level through the installation of a lift.

Professor of Mathematics Marge McIlwain was pleased with the news that a lift would be included in the Library renovations, making it easier for her to access the building in her wheelchair. Prior to the renovations, McIlwain's entrance to the lower level was a difficult one which required going outside





the building, descending in the regular building elevator, and entering through the fire escape door, which usually tripped a blaring emergency alarm. She was one of the first people to use the new lift. Thanks to the new lift, she can now accompany her Freshman Seminar students in the class' annual Library tour.

"They didn't build it just for me, of course, but for all kinds of people, like the athletes on crutches," said McIlwain. "Anytime you can be part of the normal flow, that's great. We can now do special things in the Library, and it has a lot of good possibilities."

In addition to the lift, climate control was added on both floors, creating a more pleasant environment conducive to studying. After weeding out duplicate and out-of-date publications that were no longer relevant to the SJC curriculum, the Library staff reduced the collection by 5,000-6,000 volumes. The reduction allowed all the print materials to be moved to the lower level in compact mobile shelving which released space upstairs for study areas and conference rooms.

"Various groups on campus are welcome to use these spaces as meeting rooms, as well as committees of the faculty and occasional classes," said Salyers. "For example, right now Bonnie Zimmer (Associate Professor of Art and Assistant Professor of Education) brings students over so she can utilize the equipment that we have to do presentations. Now when the Library staff works with groups on learning how to use the facility's resources, we have those conference rooms where we can take groups, and we don't have to bother students who are studying."

The updated technology in the dual conference rooms includes new projectors and screens as well as numerous research hubs with additional Internet connectivity in the lower level. Students also have several quiet spaces to complete work or research, including the Library Gallery. Artwork relevant to the SJC Core Curriculum lines the walls, and comfortable seating and ample table space is available.

"My favorite part of the renovations is the Library Gallery," said senior International Studies major Elizabeth Genova, who now spends her time in-between classes in the Library. "It's always quiet in here, and it's a place you can relax and do your work since there aren't always chairs in the Core Building foyer. The Library is a different environment from the dorms, with fewer distractions."

Genova is currently working in the Library to complete an archive internship for which she organizes the history pertaining to the Missionaries of the Precious Blood at SJC. "I feel like the Library is more student-friendly now," she continued. "You can come here and do your work instead of just getting books and leaving. It has all this extra space I didn't know it had."

Salyers echoes Genova's sentiments. "The main point of the renovations for me was to make the space more usable and help locate the materials more easily so students don't have as much trouble and give up," Salyers said. "Plus, it offers them a greater opportunity for quiet study. Students can spread out now instead of huddling in one room, so the noise level has been easier to keep down, especially for students who need quiet. Students now say it actually feels like a Library and is a place they want to come and study. The Library staff hopes to hold various events on weekends and during evenings, such as art exhibits, music events, and possibly work in cooperation with the SJC theatrical productions."

She continued, "We want to make the Library more than just a place to come and get information and study, but a vital part of the campus," said Salyers. "We want the Library to contribute to the life of the students in all aspects - recreational as well as academic."

For more information about donating to the Library or other 21st Century Campaign projects, contact the Office of Institutional Advancement and Marketing at (800) 227-1898.

Faculty Notes

Dr. Robert Brodman, *Professor of Biology*, visited the Galapagos Islands from January 13-21 in conjunction with the Chautauqua Institute, which provides funding to offer short courses designed to provide experiences for science faculty that can be used in the classroom. Having taken Chautauqua courses before in Dinosaur Paleobiology and Animal Behavior, he jumped on the opportunity to join the eight-day Chautauqua course in Biology and Geology of the Galapagos Islands. "The Chautauqua courses have been very valuable for my professional development, and my courses at SJC have greatly benefited from what I've learned there," he said. "For a biologist, visiting the Galapagos is somewhat of a pilgrimage because the islands' fauna and flora were of central importance for Darwin in developing his theories about evolution."

Additionally, Brodman recently received a \$2,512 research grant from the Indiana Academy of Sciences to study the effect of aquatic herbicides on amphibians. He plans to use the money to fund summer internships for students assisting in his project.

20 **Maia Kingman**, *Assistant Professor English*, is now officially a Ph.D. candidate at Purdue University. After finishing coursework, passing preliminary exams, and successfully defending her dissertation prospectus, she's begun work on her dissertation entitled "Folkways in the Fiction and Photography of Eudora Welty."

Kingman and her husband, Dan, as well as their first daughter, Margot, welcomed the newest member to their family – daughter Sylvia Quinn Hawthorne – on February 20.

Dr. John Nichols, *Professor of Philosophy and National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Distinguished Teaching Professor*, recently received a grant for use in hosting a workshop for administrators and faculty of Catholic colleges exploring methods of using general education to strengthen Catholic identity and mission fulfillment. The national workshop will take place from June 1-4 and serves as an act of SJC's leadership in Catholic higher education on a national level. The College's renowned Core Program will serve as the model for the workshop, and the event will feature outside speakers as well as experienced local faculty to conduct the project.



Dr. Robert Brodman



Maia Kingman



Dr. John Nichols

Fred Berger, *Associate Professor of Communication*, was recently honored by the Rocky Mount Area Habitat for Humanity, Inc. and the citizens of Rocky Mount, North Carolina. On February 28, SJC President Ernest R. Mills III presented Berger with a plaque on behalf of the city to represent their eternal thanks for the continual contribution of money, talent, and time Berger and Saint Joseph's has made to Rocky Mount over the last nine years. Berger and members of SJC's Habitat for Humanity have made an annual trip to the city just before Thanksgiving since 1999. "The dedication shown by Fred and your students to those less fortunate is an inspiration to all who have become aware of the trips and of the students' efforts to help Habitat for Humanity build houses," reads the proclamation from the Rocky Mount Area Habitat.

Following the College's first trip to the city, Berger received a letter from a North Carolina resident who helped the group renovate houses that had been damaged in Hurricane Floyd. In it, he commended the volunteers for their selflessness, eagerness, and unwavering positive attitudes. "Of course, that's what it's all about – attitude," he wrote. "You folks at SJC must be doing something right, and you should be very proud of it. What a great credit to your institution. The Templeton Guide is absolutely correct. You are preparing the kind of adults this country will need in the new millennium."

Every year, Berger reads the letter aloud to the group traveling on the Thanksgiving trip, and they find themselves inspired and motivated to work harder. "Even though it's about ten years old, the sentiment still rings true," he said.



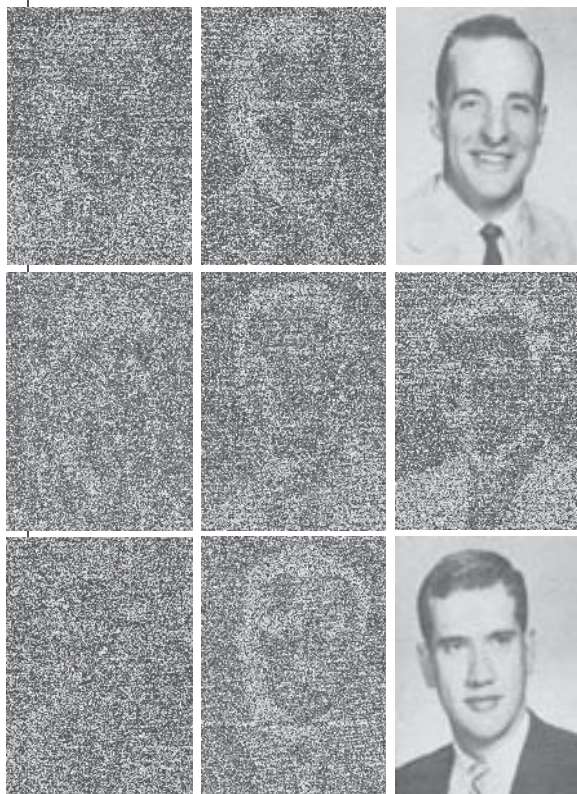
Fred Berger

1958

Sonny Bian
Jack Biel
Bob Christen

Bucky Fruehe
Jerry Lachnicht
Charlie Lancaster

Ed McDermott
Terry O'Hagan
Bill Wolfe



Class of 1958 Reunion Committee Members

Contact Jake Chapman '96 with any questions
at 800-227-1898 or jake@saintjoe.edu.

Honor Class Agents

1963

Rich Hanson
Jim Hunt
Jim McGill
Jerry Meservey
Dave O'Connor
Tony Pacenti
Dick Renspie
Jim Tuerff
Art Voellinger

1968

Jerry Arenz
George Badke
Steve Brinker
Dave D'Avignon
Steve Ruff
Tim Seiler

1973

Charlie Martin
Donna (Zimmerman) Moran
Ray Robin
Bob Straz
Bill Timmins

1978

Anna (Harris) Hastings
Dave Miller
Pat Mulcahy
Kent Willmann

1983

Brian Nahas
Donna (Riffle) Robichaud
Terry Robichaud
Bob Semmer
Sharon (Lowe) Semmer

1988

Jim Collins
Tim Daly
Ed Gray
Jane (Maginot) Kiley
Matt Kiley
Tom Kuhar
John Pikarski

1993

Mark Davisson
Dave Kirkham
Kara (Costa) Meyer
Patty Offer
Colleen (Dunbar) Rotkis
Julie (Obermeyer) Shewmaker
Katrina Spence

1998

Erin Breetzke
Chuck Carmody
April (Johnson) Ernstes
Rev. Jeff Kirch, C.P.P.S.
Nichole Lukowski
Liz (Sawyer) Slate

2003

Todd Huff
Nick Schafer
Justin "JT" Terria

2008 Homecoming Weekend: Sept. 5-7

Join us in
rounding up friends
and classmates for a fun-
filled weekend. Don't forget
about the popular Puma golf outing on
Friday, 12:30 p.m. CDT tee off. See you there!

Saint Joseph's College Student Cuts Hair to Cut Suffering



Members of the Saint Joseph's College community are no strangers to charitable donations. Students and employees participate in numerous soup kitchens, clothing drives, and toy collections throughout the year, eager to help the less fortunate. One student in particular, however, has dedicated herself to going above and beyond the usual campus activities.

Jessica Conlin, a junior Elementary Education major from Aurora, Illinois, recently donated a length of her hair to the charity Locks of Love, which uses donated hair to make wigs for underprivileged children who suffer from long-term hair loss. This was Conlin's third hair donation since 2003, and this time, her younger sister Megan, 11, donated her hair, as well.

Locks of Love requires at least a ten-inch ponytail or braid of hair per donation, and about eight to ten of these donations are used to make one wig. Conlin has set a personal goal to donate 400 inches of hair. "400 inches makes about six wigs," she said. "I know that I probably will not make it on my own, so every person I convince to donate their hair, I am counting towards my goal. Currently, I have donated 40 inches, and my mother, sister, and aunt together have donated another 40 inches."

Conlin decided to begin donating her hair when a family friend's daughter passed away from brain cancer. "She was one of the strongest people I've ever known," Conlin said. "She never questioned why she had the disease, and she rarely wore a wig. At that time, I couldn't understand why God would take the life of a seven-year-old. I wanted to make something out of her short life, so I decided to donate my hair to help other sick children and their parents, who are suffering as well."

Charitable work is a big part of Conlin's life. At SJC, she is involved in the campus's Respect for Life group. She also helped to organize SJC's first Relay for Life event, which took place last October. While at home in Aurora, she volunteers at a food pantry and tutors younger students.

Making a difference in the life of a stranger is very important to Conlin. "Every day my own life is influenced by people I don't know, in both positive and negative ways. I hope that by donating my hair, I can impact the life of a child," she said.



2008 SENIOR OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

The nominees for the Bernard A. Balas Senior of the Year Award are chosen by fellow students in the senior class at the start of January. All candidates are required to have a cumulative grade point average of 3.25 (minimum) on a 4.0 scale and completed and passed at least 105 college credit hours. The winner is announced annually at the President's Senior Dinner and receives an engraved clock along with his/her name listed on a plaque outside the Student Development Office on the first floor of the Halleck Student Center.

Joanna Askwith

Hometown: Lisle, Illinois

Majors: Chemistry and Biology

Activities: Science Club (president), Respect for Life, Habitat for Humanity, Science Olympiad (student co-director), soup kitchen volunteer, tutor (Biology, Chemistry), lab assistant (Chemistry, Microbiology, Biology)

Future Plans: Attend medical school to study immunology and earn a DO/MD

Maggie Broderick

Hometown: Palos Heights, Illinois

Major, Minor: History, Education

Activities: College Democrats (president), Habitat for Humanity (president), Senior Class Vice President, Freshman Leader, Education Club, Indiana Education Student Association, Puma Women Today, Student Life Committee (student representative), Academic Cabinet (student representative), Student Association (past executive president), Alpha Lambda Delta, Delta Epsilon Sigma, Phi Alpha Theta

Awards: SJC Dean's Scholarship

Future Plans: Volunteer with the Peace Corps for two years, stationed in Asia to teach English as a Second Language and literature

Andrew Costello

Hometown: Waterford, Michigan

Major, Minor: English, Human Resources Management

Activities: Track and Field, Cross Country, videographer for men's basketball games, Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, Human Resources intern at Jasper County Hospital, reporter and

sports editor for *The Observer*

Awards: Great Lakes Valley Conference All-Academic Team, SJC Dean's Scholarship

Future Plans: Intern at a Division I institution in Michigan to further prepare himself for his dream of becoming an athletic director at a Big Ten Conference university

Grace Rosanova

Hometown: Oak Park, Illinois

Major, Minor: Social Work, Spanish

Activities: Rensselaer Adult Learning Center's English as a Second Language Program (co-founder), tutor (Spanish), Puma Women Today (head chair), Super Adventure Club (co-founder), Take Back the Night (co-head organizer), SJC movement against the School of the Americas (organizer), Freshman Leader, College Democrats

Future Plans: Volunteer with a non-governmental organization that works with community development in Quito, Ecuador, and work toward a master's degree upon return to the United States

Aaron Ruter

Hometown: Forreston, Illinois

Major, Minor: Biology, Chemistry

Activities: Track and Field, Science Club, Science Olympiad, Freshman Leader, Student Judicial Board, tutor (Physics)

Awards: Track scholarship, Great lakes Valley Conference Academic All-American, Academic All-Conference, Scholar-Athlete

Future Plans: Attend medical school and establish an orthopedic surgical practice in the Midwest region of the country

The Senior of the Year Nominees for 2008 are, from left to right: (back row) Maggie Broderick, Aaron Ruter, Andrew Costello, (front row) Grace Rosanova, and Joanna Askwith.



Student Spotlight:

'10

Tom Lohmuller

For much of his life, a career in music was nothing but a dream for Tom Lohmuller '10. Whether playing in the school band, church, or for a private tutor, the Fort Wayne native had long envisioned himself as a rock star.

"I started playing piano in first grade, and my parents made my lessons mandatory until eighth grade," Lohmuller said. "After that, I sort of changed the way I played – I guess I started playing for myself instead of for my parents or teacher. It was more fun when it wasn't required." A changed mental attitude was just the beginning of the musical journey Lohmuller would take through much of his adolescent and young adult life.

In junior high, Lohmuller began playing piano at the summer children's Masses at his church, Most Precious Blood. He started taking organ lessons and accompanying daily Masses at his high school, Bishop Luers, and he joined in the school's band, quickly mastering the entire low brass section, drums, saxophone, and guitar. Playing in the pep band at athletic events became one of his favorite activities, and he helped coordinate trash can percussion halftime shows to drum up crowd enthusiasm, eventually bringing the performance to Saint Joseph's. For years, his percussion ensemble brought home gold medals at state Indiana State School Music Association (ISSMA) competitions.

When it came time for him to pick a major, Lohmuller settled on Criminal Justice with a minor in Computer Science. "They've always been my favorites subjects," he said, "and I figured I'd keep doing music on the side – make it more of a hobby in college." For the duration of his freshman year, he participated in the concert, pep, and marching bands and accompanied Sunday Masses in the Saint Joseph's Chapel, while focusing his studies in the math and social sciences.

Late in his freshman year at the College, Lohmuller realized he wanted more. "I had such great experiences in band and playing in church at SJC that I decided I really did want a degree in the subject," he said. He made the switch to a Music major and kept his Computer Science minor. He's most interested in internet security and computer hackers, and is working with Assistant Professor of Computer Science Brian Capouch in securing a summer internship to set up a honey-net for Capouch's internet service provider. "It's been quite a change to go from Criminal Justice classes to Music classes," he began, "but I'm enjoying the switch. I especially love the music history classes I'm getting to take now. Really studying the old pieces has given me a brand new appreciation for them."

Now, Lohmuller is a member of SJC's concert choir while continuing his involvement in the College's bands and Sunday Mass accompaniment. He's also a member of a band called Two Days Till Tomorrow, comprised of SJC students, for which he plays the bass guitar. The group took home the title from the 2007 Battle of the Bands competition held on campus and hopes to participate in similar future events, as well.

During College breaks and vacations, he currently contributes to musical ensembles at his hometown church by playing the bass guitar while continuing to play piano at the summer children's Masses. He's grateful for the opportunity to regularly work alongside his mentor and idol, the pianist and musical director at Most Precious Blood, as well as branch out independently during the summer.

Lohmuller, who credits most of his musical influences to Van Halen and the classic rock genre, has been able to immerse himself in new experiences in just two years at the College. He said, "I'd always heard that SJC offers more opportunities than bigger schools, but I didn't realize the truth of that statement until I experienced it myself. Anywhere else, I'd still be a Criminal Justice major. I wouldn't be who I am or where I am without Saint Joseph's."



Developing the Content of Our Character:

Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration at SJC

Over forty years after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. related his dream to an anxious world, we continue to celebrate the man behind the vision. Saint Joseph's College participated in the national holiday of recognition through an annual march and program held January 21 and sponsored by SJC Diversity Coalition, the Faculty Assembly Multicultural Affairs Committee, and grant funds from Lilly Endowment.

The day began with the annual march from the Jasper County Courthouse to the Richard F. Scharf Alumni Fieldhouse, in which approximately 150 students, faculty, staff, and Rensselaer community members took part, despite chilly temperatures and biting wind. Following the march, participants gathered in the Fieldhouse for the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day program.

This year's keynote speaker was Ken Carter, head coach of the Rumble's SlamBall and owner/operator of Prime Time Publications and Prime Time Sports. He delivered a speech entitled "Average is Just Not Good Enough," coinciding with the major motion picture entitled *Coach Carter*, starring Samuel L. Jackson. The film is based on the real-life events surrounding Carter's work in 1999 as head coach of the men's basketball team at Richmond High School in Richmond, California. He found himself in the center of a controversy after benching his entire undefeated team – including his own son – for poor academic performance in an attempt to motivate them to improve their grades.

During his speech, Carter urged participants to seize every opportunity that passes before them. "You need to live your life now, while you're here – that's the secret of a happy life," he said. "Do whatever you have to do to ensure that you reach your goals. Make sure you attain every single one of your dreams. You've got to have discipline or you'll never make it."

Junior Music major Lisa Guzman of Schererville, Indiana, former president and current member of Diversity Coalition, was proud of the cooperation between the College and community to honor King's memory. "We're lucky to be living in a society that has made many strides in judging people not by the color of their skin but by the content of their character, just as Martin Luther King dreamed," she said in her speech. "Today and every day, let's remember him with pride and honor."



SJC Students Broaden Horizons

by Studying Abroad

Living in a rapidly changing world means understanding different countries and cultures, especially for college students. Many students have the opportunity to spend a semester studying in a foreign country, fully immersing themselves in another culture. Saint Joseph's College is one school that has a small but growing number of students who take advantage of the chance to study abroad.

Dr. David Dixon, Associate Professor of Political Science, has served as the director of SJC's Study Abroad Program since 2002. He is very pleased to see the number of interested students rising and believes in the value of spending a semester in a foreign country.

26 "Studying abroad is becoming more essential as the U.S. economy is becoming increasingly interdependent with other economies all over the world," Dixon said. "I'm happy to say that this semester, we are sending more students abroad than during any other semester since I arrived in January 2002."

For the 2008 winter semester, SJC has five students placed in various locations in Europe. Studying in London, England, are junior Nicole Little from Springfield, Ohio, in the fields of Biology and Chemistry; junior Meghan O'Neill from Chicago Heights, Illinois, in the field of Business Administration; and senior Taleah Sanford of Peru, Indiana, also in the field of Business Administration. Nicole Pickens, a sophomore from Lucerne, Indiana, is studying International Relations in Wales; and David Santangelo, a junior from Indianapolis, Indiana, is studying English and Theatre in Grantham, England.

"It has been quite an experience coming here," said Santangelo, who won a \$2,000 scholarship from the Harlaxton campus for his semester abroad. "I'm studying at Harlaxton College about 100 miles from London, but I've been able to spend some time there. I took a tour of Westminster Abbey, visited Big Ben and Buckingham Palace, witnessed the changing of the horse guard at Parliament, and saw the Tower of London and the Tower Bridge. Finally, I went on a tour of Shakespeare's reconstructed Globe Theatre and got to see the site of the original Globe."

Even Santangelo's living quarters are full of history. "I live with two other guys in Harlaxton Manor," he said. "There are many stairs and passageways, so it is easy to get lost in. I have even found a few secret passages in the manor. It was the home of the Royal Air Force during World War II, and Margaret Thatcher stayed here when she was Prime Minister."

While they are overseas, students are also able to pursue their interests outside of academics, including participating in jobs and internships as well as enrolling in non-major specific classes. While earning credits and embracing new cultures, students who study abroad are able to visit countries and attractions that other students only read about in books. SJC's Study Abroad Program promises a semester of life-changing experiences and allows students to discover the world.



Sanford (left), Little (middle), and O'Neill (right)



Sanford (third in line), O'Neill (sixth in line), and Little (seventh in line) pose on the Meridian Line.



Santangelo (right) and friends in Killarney.



Santangelo (left) and friend at Ireland's famous Puck statue.

Pumas Dress to Impress at CareerFest 2008

One of the biggest worries for many college students is finding employment after graduation. In order to give students a leg up in the job market, Saint Joseph's College held its 12th annual CareerFest on February 13. Taking place in the Halleck Student Center, over thirty local, state, and national companies were represented at CareerFest. Additionally, the Career Development Center sponsored four \$100 cash giveaways throughout the duration of the event, as well as a special "Substitute Mom" prize package in which Director of Career Development Donna Brody promised to deep clean and organize the winner's dorm room; bake and deliver five dozen of his/her favorite cookies; and wash, fold, and iron one week's worth of the winner's laundry.

"We had a good turnout of students from all class years at CareerFest," Brody said. "Some employers start recruiting before junior year, but it's always tremendously important for our seniors to take advantage of this opportunity. Career fairs are great opportunities for job seekers because the participants can network with a larger number of employers in one place, on one day."

Todd Laubhan, a junior Business Administration major from Fort Wayne, Indiana, was thankful for the extra practice in marketing himself that CareerFest allowed him. "I've been to a couple other networking events, so I've had some experience with learning how to market myself, but it's good practice to do it often. It gets easier for me every time I attend an event like this, and I can see the mistakes that others are making and those that I've made in the past," he said. "This year, there were many interesting prospects available to us, and I think I may have even landed a possible summer internship from one company."

Senior Business Administration major and Orland Park, Illinois, native Mardee Hresil echoed Laubhan's sentiments. "Marketing yourself to an employer isn't always something that comes naturally," she said. "But with lots of practice, you get less and less nervous, and it starts to get easier each time. I had lots of luck getting my name out to several prominent businesses at this year's event, and I'm confident that this year's CareerFest was helpful to many different students in similar ways."

Alumni employers and job seekers are welcomed and encouraged to attend all CareerFest events. For information regarding CareerFest 2009, contact Brody at (219) 866-6116.

Marissa Klebs '05 (left), Analytical Chemist at AIT Laboratories (owned and operated by **Michael Evans '67**), speaks with senior Business Administration major Mardee Hresil (right).



Todd Laubhan (right), junior Business Administration major, discusses future prospects with a representative from CDW.



Science Olympiad Reminds Students that Science Can Be Fun

On February 16, Saint Joseph's College played host to the Science Olympiad regional tournament for the 16th consecutive year. Science Olympiad was started in 1985 as a forum for competition in science among students. Today, over 14,000 K-12 schools from all fifty states as well as Canada compete in the event. Regional winners advance to state tournaments, and the winners at state advance to the national tournament. SJC hosted its first regional tournament under the direction of the late Professor of Biology Dr. Duvall Jones in 1993.

Associate Professor of Chemistry Dr. Anne Gull and Professor of Chemistry Dr. Rob Pfaff currently serve as co-directors of the regional tournament. This year, there were also three student co-directors: Joanna Askwith, a senior Chemistry and Biology major from Lisle, Illinois; Crystal Stines, a senior Chemistry major from Danville, Indiana; and Lauren Stoffel, a junior Biology-Chemistry major from Huntington, Indiana. "The students were responsible for scheduling and preparing facilities for the tournament, recruiting and assigning volunteer supervisors for the events, and organizing materials," said Pfaff. "In short, they basically organized and ran the event."

Science Olympiad uses friendly competition to encourage students to be interested in science by applying principles in their science curricula to practical problems. In all, there are forty-six events total – twenty-three for middle school and twenty-three for high school. Included



Forensics, Division C



Closing ceremonies and awards presentation



Scrambler, Division B



Tower Building, Division B

in these are such favorites as Disease Detective, in which students are asked to identify a disease; Tower Building, in which students build wooden towers that are scored by the load they can bear compared to the tower's weight; Trajectory, in which students build catapults that are scored by how close to a target they can launch an object; Robot Ramble, in which students build robots to accomplish a task; Sounds of Music, in which students build musical instruments; and Wright Stuff, in which students build model airplanes that are scored for duration of flight.

To accommodate the events and provide team preparation space, Science Olympiad took over the Arts and Science Building; Rev. Charles Banet, C.P.P.S. Core Education Center; and the Hanson Recreation Center. Nine middle schools from as far away as Lake Station, Indiana, and nine high schools from as far away as Mishawaka, Indiana, competed in this year's tournament.

For SJC, there are many benefits in hosting this tournament each year. "In addition to publicity for Saint Joseph's, our students benefit, as well," explained Pfaff. "In addition to the three student co-directors, we had an organizing committee of ten students who oversaw specific aspects of the events and over sixty other student volunteers conducting the actual events, joined by almost a dozen SJC faculty members. Science Olympiad represents community service in the broadest sense."

Planned Giving at SJC: Peggy Weatherhead Guccione '69

Coming to Saint Joseph's College in only the second year of the school's coeducation may have been difficult for some, but not for **Peggy Weatherhead Guccione '69**. She recalls renting rooms with other female students in an elderly woman's home in Rensselaer and how strange it was to live off campus and not to have to abide by any dorm curfew rules.

Guccione is grateful for the Catholic education she received from SJC. At her Catholic high school, she felt she was not exposed to enough theology themes and had always desired a higher level of information about Catholicism. At SJC, she achieved this goal through several semesters of Theology and Philosophy classes. Also, Guccione was thankful to have found a Catholic institution that offered classes in Geology. Until she stepped on SJC's campus, she had never taken a Geology class, and now the subject is her career and life's passion.

Currently, Guccione is a Professor of Geology at the University of Arkansas along with her husband. She has one son living in Florida, who works with the mentally and physically disabled.

Guccione owns Wal-Mart stock, which has appreciated in value over the years. Her financial adviser opened her eyes on how to avoid capital gains taxes by donating shares of Wal-Mart stock to SJC each year. She says, "It is financially wise for me to donate the stock, and transferring it to Saint Joseph's is very easy."

Thankful for her education, Peggy claims two people have influenced her to give to SJC. First, Michael Davis, Professor Emeritus of Geology, made a profound difference in her life. They recently got back in touch and truly enjoy visiting by phone. Second, **Maureen Egan '90**, Vice President of Institutional Advancement and Marketing, has been very pleasant to work with. Guccione states, "She is such a positive person that it is easy to discuss planned gifts with her." As a bonus, this gift has inspired other former Geology students, including **Michael J. Guccione '69**, to support the renovations in the Robinson Memorial Library honoring Davis.

Named after Saint Gaspar del Bufalo, the founder of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, Saint Gaspar Society membership is

an esteemed distinction recognizing one of the greatest philanthropic tributes to Saint Joseph's College: making the provision to include the College in your estate plans. For more information on the Saint Gaspar Society, contact Egan at (800) 227-1898.



39th Annual Trustees Scholarship Dinner and Auction

It's not too late to purchase your tickets for May 9, 2008. This year's event will take place in the Grand Metropolitan Ballroom of the Radisson Hotel at Star Plaza in Merrillville, Indiana. Join us to honor **A. Vincent Agnew '54** with a reception at 6:30 and dinner at 7:30.

Silent Auction 6:30 to 9:00

Live Auction 9:00

Dancing to "Protocol" 9:00 to 12:00

Tickets can be purchased for \$200 per person, \$150 for young alumni (1987-2007). Please RSVP to Institutional Advancement and Marketing at (800) 227-1898. Black tie event. All times are Central Daylight.

Three Pumas Named to Academic All-America Cross Country Teams

Saint Joseph's College cross country runners Matt Leonardo (Sr., Chicago, Illinois), Jenna Helton (Jr., Waterloo, Illinois), and Ashley Moore (Sr., Clarksville, Indiana) have been named to the NCAA Division II Academic All-America Teams for the 2007 season, as chosen by the United States Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association.

To qualify for Academic All-American honors, student-athletes must have completed 24 semester hours with a cumulative grade-point average of 3.25 and finish in the top 30 percent of individual participants at the regional cross country championships.

Leonardo was one of 127 male student-athletes in Division II to be so honored. He is a four-year letter winner at SJC and has been the Pumas' top finisher at the Great Lakes Regional Championships the past two seasons, including a 58th-place finish this past fall. He is an Accounting major at SJC with a 3.60 grade-point average.

Helton and Moore were among 202 female student-athletes in Division II to earn Academic All-American accolades. Helton is a three-year letter winner who finished 54th in the regional. She carries a 3.27 GPA in Business Administration. Moore is a four-year letter winner who was SJC's top runner in every meet over the past four years. She placed 43rd in the regional meet this season and is a Criminal Justice major with a 3.94 GPA.

The 2007 season marks the first time SJC has had three selections to the Academic All-America Cross Country Teams in the same year.

Enderle, Panozzo Sign Frontier League Contracts

Saint Joseph's College senior baseball players Matt Enderle and Joe Panozzo are extending their competitive careers into the professional ranks, both having recently signed contracts to play in the independent Frontier League.

Enderle has signed a deal with the Rockford RiverHawks, based in Loves Park, Illinois, while Panozzo has joined the roster of the Windy City ThunderBolts, out of Crestwood, Illinois.

Enderle was a two-year letter winner at SJC and an Honorable Mention All-Great Lakes Valley Conference selection last season. He finished his career with a record of 14-6 and a 3.15 earned-run average in 140 innings. Rockford finished last season with a record of 52-43 and qualified for the Frontier League playoffs.

Panozzo, also a two-year letter winner, was a First Team All-GLVC and All-North Central Region selection in 2007, when he posted a record of 7-1 with seven saves and a 1.30 ERA. He made five pitching appearances for the Gary Southshore RailCats of the independent Northern League last season.

In signing with Windy City, Panozzo is reunited with former SJC teammate **Eric Fussell '06**, who joined the team as a pitcher last season. Fussell went 12-2 with a 3.26 ERA in helping lead the ThunderBolts to a 68-28 regular-season record and the Frontier League Championship.

The Frontier League consists of teams in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. The 2008 regular season begins May 21.



Matt Leonardo

Ashley Moore

Jenna Helton

Matt Enderle

Trio of Pumas Cited in National Baseball Preview

Three Saint Joseph's College baseball players were recently recognized in the 2008 season preview edition of the *Collegiate Baseball* newspaper.

Outfielder Matt Wille (Sr., Crystal Lake, Illinois/McHenry County CC) was honored as one of the North Central Region's Pre-Season All-Americans. Wille batted .393 last season with 44 runs batted in and 28 stolen bases, receiving First Team All-Great Lakes Valley Conference and All-North Central Region honors.

Catcher Mike Pericht (So., Orland Park, Illinois/Providence) was named as one of the region's Players to Watch after batting .245 with nine doubles and 14 RBIs as a freshman, while pitcher Chris Chojnowski (Fr., Chicago, Illinois/St. Rita) was listed as one of the region's Newcomers to Watch.

SJC was picked to finish second in the Great Lakes Valley Conference East Division this season, according to the annual preseason poll of the league's coaches. The Pumas' 2008 campaign began February 23.

Young selected to participate in Division II All-Star Game

Saint Joseph's College football player DeQwan Young (Sr., Pontiac, Michigan/Northern) was selected to participate in the 2008 Valero Cactus Bowl All-Star Game, which was held on Friday, January 11 at Javelina Stadium in Kingsville, Texas.

The Cactus Bowl, which annually selects its players from the top seniors in NCAA Division II, started out as the Snow Bowl in 1994 at the Fargo Dome in Fargo, North Dakota. After its initial seven-year run, the game moved to Kingsville in January 2001.

Young, a First Team All-Great Lakes Football Conference and Second Team All-Northwest Region selection for the second straight season, was one of 12 Division II cornerbacks from around the country participating in the Cactus Bowl.

This season, he recorded sixty-seven total tackles, four interceptions, twelve pass breakups, and two fumble recoveries. He also returned twenty-four kickoffs for 592 yards and two touchdowns.

Young helped lead the East Team to a 42-13 victory over the West squad in the Cactus Bowl, recording four tackles and a pass breakup. Young's teammate Lance Burns (Sr., Miami, Florida/Coral Reef) was also a post-season all-star game participant, playing in the East Coast Bowl in Petersburg, Virginia, on November 24.



Joe Panozzo

DeQwan Young

Matt Wille

Class Notes

William (Bill) Gausselein '53 and his wife Phyllis have been married for 55 years. They have nine children, thirty grandchildren, and are expecting their second great-grandchild in June 2008.

W. Lewellyn (Lew) Schmidt '60 is the current Chairman of the Catholic Charities of Collier County Advisory Board. Schmidt was recently elected to the Catholic Charities Diocese of Venice Board and the Catholic Charities Foundation.

On November 14, 2007, two Pumas were honored at a special banquet and awards ceremony for their dedication to their students and the teaching profession. The Indiana State Teachers' Association (ISTA) Unit 1-H District Council and the local Horace Mann Insurance company (whose agent and co-sponsor of the award is **Tom Grzesik '69**) presented "Crystal Apples" to **Rich Stefanich '64** and **Mary Ann Dudka-Milo '82**. In attendance to honor Stefanich were **George Cover '58** and **Edward P. Habrowski '71**, who both – along with Stefanich – are educators in the Rensselaer Central School Corporation.

Paul J. Corsaro '65 has been named a Super Lawyer for 2008 in the area of estate planning & probate. Corsaro, of Bingham McHale LLP, concentrates his practice in helping families plan for their futures with estate planning. He also has extensive experience in estate and trust administration, tax planning, business succession planning, charitable giving, guardianship, adoptions, and tax litigation. "Indiana Super Lawyers" is a joint project of *Law & Politics Magazine* and the *Indianapolis Monthly*. The Super Lawyer designation is limited to no greater than 5% of the Bar who represent the very elite, according to peers.

On October 26, 2007, four Pumas faced off in the second round of IHSAA sectional football. The Wheeler Bearcats played the Rensselaer Central Bombers in a 12-0 game in favor of the Bearcats. Head football coach and Wheeler principal are **Dan Klimczak '99** and **Don Gandy '85**, respectively, while at Rensselaer Central are **Chris Meeks '92** and **Edward Habrowski '71**, respectively. Might this be the first time in IHSAA and Puma history that head football coaches and principals are all Pumas?

Fred P. Mariani '74, head football coach for the Iona College Gaels, led his New Rochelle, New York, team to a conference championship. They were 7-4 for the season.

George Clemens '75 and his brother **Don Clemens '77** own Rabb-Kinetico Water Systems, a residential, commercial, and industrial water treatment firm with locations in Kokomo, Warsaw, Huntington, Logansport, Fort Wayne, and Lafayette, Indiana. Rabb is one of the nation's largest independent dealerships.

Al Stupek '80 was named the Pana High School head football coach on February 9, 2008. He has served as the freshman head football coach for the past sixteen seasons. Stupek is the Executive Vice President of the First National Bank of Pana, Illinois.

Audra (Nevorski) Hershberger '89 recently won a part in an upcoming independent film being shot in the South Bend, Indiana, area. It's a parody of the Harry Potter films called "Harvey Putter and the Ridiculous Premise." Hershberger is playing Madam Coach. Her 15-year-old daughter, Jamie, gets to be an extra in the film, too.

Susan M. Mattocks '94 was awarded the 2007-08 Armstrong Teacher Educator Award. This award is presented through the Indiana University School of Education, and Mattocks is one of seven to receive the award this year. She is a 7th grade teacher with Tri-County Schools and teaches Reading and English.

Former Saint Joseph's College cross country and track and field standout **Laura Witek-Jones '97** is one of six individuals selected for induction into the Great Lakes Valley Conference Hall of Fame in 2008. Witek-Jones completed her career at SJC as one of the most successful cross country and track and field runners in GLVC history. She was a four-time member of the All-GLVC Cross Country Team and claimed the honors of GLVC Runner of the Year and GLVC Freshman of the Year in 1993 after winning the GLVC Cross Country Championship individual crown. Witek-Jones is the SJC record holder in the 1,500 meters, mile, 3,000 meters, 5,000 meters, and 10,000 meters. She and her husband, Ray, have three children and live in Marengo, Illinois.

Matthew Eichas '01 received his master's degree in Educational Leadership from Olivet Nazarene University in Kankakee, Illinois, in December of 2007. Eichas currently teaches second grade in Plainfield, Illinois.

Stan Niemiec '05 received his master's degree in Elementary Education from National Louis University

in Lisle, Illinois, in December of 2007. Niemiec is teaching sixth, seventh, and eighth grade science in Palos Heights, Illinois.

Eric M. Peschke '05 has accepted a job to caddy for South Africa's Stacy Bregman on the Ladies European Golf Tour that starts in April 2008. Peschke previously caddied for Dana Lacey, who was on the Golf Channel's Big Break reality show.



ENGAGEMENTS

Jeff Coan '96 to Christina Looper.

Amanda (Mandy) Lundeen '02 to Jamie Dill. A June 28, 2008, wedding is planned.

Amy K. Wrzesinski '02 to Brad Andrekus. A June 20, 2008, wedding is planned in Chicago.

Jen Sherburne '03 to Craig Eckert. A July 12, 2008, wedding is planned.

Eric Hall '04 to Christina Abrev. A June 27, 2009, wedding is planned in Orlando, Florida.

Nicholas B. Herold '06 to **Angela R. Shaver '07**. A summer 2008 wedding is planned.

Nioka M. Ward '06 to Adam Clark. A March 28, 2009, wedding is planned. **Shelley Osborn '06** and **Bobbie Jo Hayes '05** will be bridesmaids.

Abby M. Miller '07 to Spencer Geib. A June 21, 2008, wedding is planned.

Candace Stewart '07 to Chris Hons. A June 7, 2008, wedding is planned.

MARRIAGES

Alexandrea D. Falk '07 to Jacob Hill, 8/11/07.

Maria E. Toledo '03 to Raul Alfaro, 5/26/07.

BIRTHS

Sylvia Quinn Hawthorne to Daniel Hawthorne and SJC Assistant Professor of English Maia Kingman, 2/20/08. Sylvia joins big sister Margot (3).

Christmas twins John and William Cooke to **Michael '89** and Dina **Cooke**, 12/26/07. They were welcomed by big brother Thomas (1).

Olivia Cook, adopted by **Joseph '90** and Lisa **Cook**, born 11/12/07.

Norah June Hayes to **Bill '93** and **Patty (Glennon) Hayes '93**, 4/7/05. She joins big brothers Liam (7) and Brian (5) and big sister Jackie (2).

Alexandra Kathryn Barry to Rob and **Kim (Patch) Barry '94**, 8/31/07. **Meggan (Chaseley) Waltuck '94** and **Nicki Crispo '94** are godparents.

Rachel Marion Feinendegen to **Eric '95** and Maggie **Feinendegen**, 12/12/07.

Spring 2008

Class Notes

Mary Frances Grace Irons to **Chris '95** and **Cheri (Bowsher) Irons '95**, 1/30/07. Mary Frances was welcomed at home by her sisters Anna (5) and Rose (2).

Colette Mary Lieb to **David '95** and **Amanda (Lemler) Lieb '95**, 5/4/07. Colette joins big sister Georgia (8) and brothers Philip (6) and Jude (3).

Ian Fredrick Slate to **Mark '95** and **Elizabeth (Sawyer) Slate '98**, 5/18/07. Ian joins big sister Lauryn (2).

34 Luke Robinson Avery to **J. Phillip '96** and **Denise (Hutchinson) Avery '97**, 1/22/08. Luke joins big brother Jackson (2).

Gemma Cecilia Davy to **Matthew '96** and **Faith (Sievers) Davy '96**, 8/17/07. Gemma joins her big brother Max (8) and big sister Gianna (4).

Megan Kay Eleff to Joe and **Maureen (Connor) Eleff '97**, 7/13/2007. Megan joins big brothers Andrew (4) and Ryan (2).

Caulden Atticus Pulver to SJC Assistant Professor of Psychology **Chad '97** and **Rachel (Mahns) Pulver '97**, 12/30/07. He joins big brother Cassius.

Jack Joseph Makuch to Jeff and **Jamie (Riberto) Makuch '99**, 2/6/08.

Sienna Waveland Moser to **Scott '99** and Suzanne **Moser**, 1/22/08. Sienna joins big brother Eli (2).

Addison Elizabeth Retzlaff to **Jason '99** and Mary Beth **Retzlaff**, 12/6/07.

Olivia Mary Capadona to **Jeff '00** and Lynn **Capadona**, 10/02/07.

Anie Joy Balta to **Nikolas '00** and **Kristy (Langen) Balta '00**, 2/1/08.

Isabella Ann Walters to **Cory '00** and **Holly Ann (Stefaniak) Walters '00**, 2/8/08. Isabella joins big brother Coby (2).

Kara Leigh Dunscombe to Luke and **Bree (Ma'Ayteh) Dunscombe '02**, 12/17/07.

Ian Andrew Flores, Jr. to **Ian Andrew, Sr. '03** and **Danielle (Ramirez) Flores '03**, 12/13/07.

Olivia Rose Masterson to **Nicholas '03** and **Katherine (Medvescek) Masterson '03**, 12/18/07.

Claire Elizabeth Nern to Jonathan and **Sarah (Morningstar) Nern '03**, 1/10/08. Claire joins big brother Ryley (2).

Fenton James Regan to **Jeffrey '04** and Jaqueline **Regan**, 8/9/07. He joins big sisters Skylar Mary (2) and Ireland Anne (1).

DEATHS

John T. Doyle, SJC friend, 3/28/07.

Edward Dwyer, former SJC football coach, 12/8/07.

Vanessa Winifred Evans, mother of Jonathan Kirkland '11, 11/25/07.

Jim Holstein, former SJC men's basketball coach, 12/16/07.

Dominic J. Kastre '41, 12/2/07.

Monsignor Robert Contant '43, 4/16/07.


Rev. Francis Kinney, C.P.P.S. '43, 2/9/08.

George Richard (Dick) Schreiber '43, SJC Life Trustee, 12/14/07.

Rev. Clement Kuhns, C.P.P.S. '44, 1/16/08.

Thomas F. Ritter '44, 8/11/07.

Norbert J. Walsh '44, 12/16/07.



James H. Stang '50, father of **Rev. William Stang, C.P.P.S. '72** and **Michael Stang '72**, 2/3/08.

Gerald A. Wenzel '53, 12/22/07.

Daniel P. Ort, Ph.D. '58, 9/3/07.

Thomas K. Ryan '58, brother of **M. Desmond Ryan '58**, brother-in-law to **Leone M. Ryan '74**, 7/22/07.

Joseph A. Doyle '61, 12/19/07.

Thomas E. Talaga '61, 12/6/07.

Dr. David B. Kenney, father of **Kathleen Kenney Malarney '92**, father-in-law of **Tim Malarney '89**, and brother-in-law of SJC trustee **Phil Wilhelm '63**, 12/20/07.

Raymond E. Wolshon '63, 3/3/06.

William C. Bean '64, 1/20/08.

Josephine L. Faulkner, mother of **Mary Frances (Faulkner) Felts-Nordstrom '64**, 12/2/07.

Joseph A. Dykas '69, father of **Marty Dykas '97**, 2/9/08.

Terence J. O'Neill '73, 4/12/05.

Garrett Alyn Burton '76, 12/11/07.

Richard Clayberg '76, 5/22/07.

Mary Ann Bolla, wife of **Mark T. Bolla '77**, 1/20/08.

Richard C. Jacob, father of **Diane (Jacob) Buttitta '78**, 8/14/07.

Robert J. Egan, brother of SJC Professor of Music Dr. John B. Egan; brother-in-law of Anne-Marie Egan, Professor Emeritus of Music; and uncle to **Weldon Egan '80, Anne-Cecile (Egan) Thorndyke '81, Stephen Egan '84**, Kathryn (Egan) Geleott, **Sean Egan '87, Brian Egan '89**, and **Maureen Egan '90**.

Kevin Hamilton Kolber, son of **Paul '81 and Colleen (Hamilton) Kolber '81**, 1/6/08.

Robert B. Kinsella, father of **Robert S. Kinsella '87**, 9/5/07.



Contact

Lawrence A. Laudick '69
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Dr. Ernest R. Mills III
President

Maureen V. Egan '90
*Vice President for
Institutional Advancement
and Marketing*

Kendra Illingworth '93
*Alumni and Parent
Relations Director*

Becky Scherer '05
Editor

Clark Teuscher '00
Sports Information Director

Katherine (Stembel) Purple '07
*21st Century Campaign
Project Manager*

Charles Dill
Webmaster, Contact

Kathleen Grady '09
Publications and Media Relations Intern

**Brandon Ray of
Haywood Printing, Inc.**
Graphic Design

*Contact is printed by
Faulstich Printing Company,
Fred Faulstich '60, owner.*

A Great Tradition Marches On

Alumni, parents, students, and friends braved chilly weather and biting wind to represent Saint Joseph's College in Chicago's annual St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 15. This year marked the College's twenty-third consecutive year of participation in the televised event, and guests gathered for a post-parade party at Goose Island Brewpub to celebrate SJC and connect with old and new friends.

To learn more about College-sponsored events, log on to the Online Community, *Connections*, at <http://alumni.saintjoe.edu>.



Contact

P.O. Box 870
Rensselaer, IN
47978-0870
www.saintjoe.edu

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Danville, IL
Permit No. 234